

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 27, 29-38, and 40-58 were previously pending in the application. Claims 31, 42, 49-50, and 52 are canceled; claims 27, 32, 38, 43, and 51 are amended; and new claims 59-62 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 27, 29-30, 32-38, 40-41, 43-48, 51, and 53-62 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 3 of the office action, the Examiner objected to claims 29, 31-33, 40, 42-44, 47-48, and 52 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In paragraph 4, the Examiner allowed claims 53-58. In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 27, 30, 36-38, 41, and 49-51 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Falik. In paragraph 14, the Examiner rejected claims 34-35 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falik in view of Arimilli. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Claim 27 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 31. As such, currently amended claim 27 is equivalent to previously pending claim 31 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 27 is allowable. Since claims 29-30 and 32-37 depend variously from claim 27, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 38 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 42. As such, currently amended claim 38 is equivalent to previously pending claim 42 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 38 is allowable. Since claims 40-41 and 43-48 depend variously from claim 38, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 51 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 52. As such, currently amended claim 51 is equivalent to previously pending claim 52 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 52 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 51 is allowable.

New claim 59 is equivalent to previously pending claim 29 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 59 is allowable.

New claim 60 is equivalent to previously pending claim 40 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 60 is allowable.

New claim 61 is equivalent to previously pending claim 47 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 61 is allowable.

Support for new claim 62 is found in previously pending claim 48. Since new claim 62 depends from claim 61, it is further submitted that new claim 62 is also allowable.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 27, 30, 34-38, 41, 45-46, and 49-51 under Sections 102(e) and 103(a) have been overcome. Furthermore, new claims 59-62 patentably define over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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